

Tidy Towns Competition 2016

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Annacotty**

Ref: **1955**

County: **Limerick**

Mark: **255**

Category: **C**

Date(s): **02/07/2016**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2015	Mark Awarded 2016
Community Involvement & Planning	60	36	36
Built Environment and Streetscape	50	33	34
Landscaping and Open Spaces	50	30	32
Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities	50	29	30
Sustainable Waste and Resource Management	50	10	12
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	49	50
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	50	31	31
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	50	30	30
TOTAL MARK	450	248	255

Community Involvement & Planning / Rannpháirtíocht an Phobail & Pleanáil:

Welcome to the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Competition and thank you for your submission. A good map was provided for Annacotty which facilitated adjudication but the absence of a Tidy Towns Action Plan was notable, try to include one for next year or at least a summary. It is interesting to note that your fortnightly meetings are open to all, this is a good strategy as it should encourage volunteers to add to the committee of 15 members. The diverse list of agencies and bodies from whom you receive support is impressive as is your use of social media especially in the area of Sustainable Waste and Resource Management. Also noted favourably is your School Liaison Officer. Congratulations on your success in the 'Going for Gold' competition.

Built Environment and Streetscape / An Timpeallacht Thógtha agus Sráid-dreacha:

The Mill Bar looks very well as does the terrace of shopfronts across from it; we note representations made concerning their presentation. The use of roller security shutters inside of windows should be discouraged as these diminish the visual amenity of the streetscape. Window stickers and posters can spoil an Otherwise good shopfront presentation also and should be discouraged. Full window stickers block the entire windows of Mr Price and the Studio One Fitness Gym. The Eamon Nicholas premises is attractive but the window posters here take away from a good shopfront presentation. The Black Swan and the Londis premises look quite well too. Street furniture is well presented and the bike rack was favourably noted.

Landscaping and Open Spaces / Tírdhreachú agus Spásanna Oscailte:

A nice nicely landscaped entrance from the Motorway is visually appealing and creates a good first impression of Annacotty. Farm equipment and other items of interest on public display add visual interest. Container flower displays are colourful and profuse throughout the village and at the bridge in particular; it is good to note that these feature displays throughout the year. Most roundabouts are nicely landscaped, The Ballysimon roundabout could be landscaped further and all should feature identification signs. More seated amenity areas or just seating is suggested throughout the village. Well done on the 'Tree Audit' and storm damage replacement, this is a fine initiative. Green open spaces enjoy good maintenance. Log onto universaldesign.ie for guidelines on designing buildings and spaces with universal access.

Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities / Fiadhúlra, Gnáthóga agus Taitneamhachtaí Nádurtha:

Interpretive panels are suggested for the wildlife of the river. The feasibility of a River Walk with interpretation should be explored. Well done on the biodiversity area designation and monitoring together with habitat mapping and invasive species awareness and action. A number of overgrown areas with potential for a wildlife project was noted

at several locations. The riverbed and its banks are clean and a small amenity area has been developed on one riverbank, a few cans have been noted here. The mural on the inside of the bridge wall opposite is eye-catching as it depicts the wildlife of the river and it is beautiful.

Sustainable Waste and Resource Management / Bainistiú Acmhainní agus Dramhaíola Inbhuanaithe:

The publication on your Facebook page of the two recycling facilities within a two km radius of Annacotty is favourably noted. The use of river water for watering plants is excellent; we encourage you to harvest rainwater too at a number of locations for the same purpose; the possibility of transporting river water around to various locations might also be explored, this has been done successfully by other communities. In choosing projects keep the focus on prevention of waste at source and efficiencies of resource management and try to estimate savings for feedback to enhance motivation and awareness.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There was some weed growth to individual areas in front of the Riverside Apartments and a small amount of litter throughout which is not yet a problem but deserved to be monitored. A few cans were noted at the amenity area on the river bank. Congratulations on a successful participation in the Team Limerick Clean-Up and well done on the new bins and regular litter picking. The segregation of litter for recycling is laudable. It was a pleasure to note Annacotty's wirescape free status within the village centre and the contemporary lamp standards.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

In the Newtown Park development the grass has overtaken the identification stone this area should be landscaped. Some weather staining to roadside boundary walls across from the sports field and elsewhere was noted. Some lovely roadside boundary walls to residential properties along Ashgrove were noted and set the standard. The Riverside apartment complex is nicely presented in its green areas with picnic facilities and parking spaces. common green areas enjoy good maintenance. Building strong links with resident associations augers well for the future.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

Good name plates mark the entrances to Annacotty and are complemented by landscaping. Road and footpath surfaces are generally good too as is the pedestrian crossing. The hurler memorial (Jackie Harte) is attractive and appropriately located dividing as it does two roads. The bicycle parking stands are an attractive piece of street furniture; well done on the signage audit and monitoring of advertisements.

Concluding Remarks:

Annacotty has some lovely features that are unexpected so close to a national primary route / motorway. Facilities available to the travelling public ranging from a leisurely rest by the riverbank and encountering wildlife to availing of refreshments is a most pleasant experience.